



Schedule III is Added to the CURES Requirement

On January 1, 2005, all pharmacies will have to begin submitting Schedule III prescription information to the Controlled Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) program. The CURES program compiles prescription data in a statewide database to assist state law enforcement and regulatory agencies in their efforts to reduce prescription drug diversion. That data is also available for prescribers and pharmacists who wish to obtain a patient drug history for someone under their care.

Currently, pharmacies are required to electronically transmit only Schedule II prescription information to the CURES program. New legislation, Senate Bill 151 (Burton, Chapter 406, Statutes of 2003), will require the same information be transmitted for Schedule III prescriptions. For most pharmacies, this means that their software must be modified so that Schedule III (as well as Schedule II) prescription information is transmitted to the Department of Justice via their data collector, Atlantic Associates.

In addition to requiring submission of Schedule III prescription information, the bill requires prescribers dispensing these drugs to submit prescription information to the CURES program beginning on July 1, 2004. Both pharmacies and dispensing prescribers must submit the following information for each prescription filled:

- Full name, address, gender, and date of birth of the patient;
- Prescriber's category of licensure, license number, and federal controlled substance registration number;
- Pharmacy prescription number, license number, and federal controlled substance registration number;
- NDC (National Drug Code) number of the controlled substance dispensed;
- Quantity of the controlled substance dispensed;
- ICD-9 (diagnosis code), if available;
- Date of issue of the prescription; and
- Date of dispensing of the prescription.